

RAFI-USA

Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA

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Farm Advocacy Services for Cut-Off Omtron Growers

RAFI's Farm Advocate is available free of charge to meet with cut-off Omtron (formerly Townsends) growers to provide in-depth financial counseling and planning. RAFI's services are free of charge and confidential.

- The Farm Advocate will begin by reviewing all of a grower's financial information with him/her and prepare a preliminary farm plan in cooperation with the grower.
 - o The initial meeting will take place at the grower's home or a mutually agreed upon place.
 - o RAFI will send the grower a list of documents to compile before the meeting so that the time together can be used as efficiently as possible.
 - o The farm advocate will evaluate the grower's cash flow and, together, the advocate and the grower will explore their financial options.
- The Farm Advocate will accompany the grower to meetings with lenders or the USDA. Part of these visits will involve sharing the farm plan with the bank and using it to negotiate a mutually agreed-upon payment plan.
- When a grower requires legal assistance, the farm advocate will work with the grower to locate paperwork and prepare documents ahead of time in order to allow the attorneys to process as many cases possible in an efficient manner.
- RAFI can also assist growers interested in pursuing alternative enterprises with business-planning and referrals to farmer peers and others who can offer sound advice and resources, giving them the best possible chance of launching a new enterprise if they so wish.
- RAFI's Farm Advocate will only share a grower's financial information with others at RAFI to strategize about the best possible way to help the grower. No one outside of RAFI will know that a grower is working with RAFI's Farm Advocate. RAFI shares aggregate information about advocacy work, but nothing about a grower's specific case will ever be shared outside of RAFI without a grower's permission.

To learn more about RAFI's Farm Advocacy services and/or to set up a meeting, please call Becky Ceartas at 919-542-1396 ext. 209 or email becky@rafiusa.org.



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